

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's Statement presents only some of the reasons for allowance of the claims, and that other reasons also exist for allowing the claims such as, for example, those set forth more completely in the record as a whole. This interpretation is consistent with M.P.E.P. § 1302.14, which states that any statement of reasons for allowance "[i]s not intended to necessarily state all the reasons for allowance or all the details why claims are allowed and should not be written to specifically or impliedly state all the reasons for allowance are set forth." M.P.E.P. § 1302.14.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's Statement might imply that the dependent claims are only allowable because they depend from allowed independent claims. However, the Examiner's Statement does not discuss any of the other elements of the claimed subject matter, in particular, those additional elements recited in the dependent claims which may render the dependent claims independently allowable in view of the specification, prosecution file history and/or the documents made of record, either alone or in combination.

Applicant agrees with the Examiner that claims 2-22, 24-43, 45, 47-80 and 82-165 are allowable in view of all of the documents made of record, either alone or in combination. However, Applicant does not necessarily agree or disagree with the Examiner's characterization of the documents made of record, either alone or in combination, or the Examiner's characterization of recited claim elements.

In closing, Applicant respectfully reserves the right to argue the characterization of the documents of record, either alone or in combination, to argue what is allegedly well known, allegedly obvious or allegedly disclosed, or to argue the characterization of the recited claim elements should that need arise in the future.

If the Examiner has questions, or if Applicant can be of assistance, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact Applicant's representative at the below-listed telephone number.

U.S. Application No. 09/692,420, filed October 19, 2000

Attorney Docket No. 15262US01

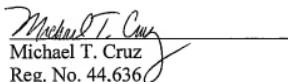
Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance dated April 13, 2007

In Reply to Notice of Allowability mailed March 27, 2007

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, to charge any fee deficiencies or to credit any overpayments to the deposit account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

Dated: April 13, 2007

Respectfully submitted,



Michael T. Cruz
Reg. No. 44,636

McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd.
500 West Madison Street, 34th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60661
Telephone: (312) 775-8084
Facsimile: (312) 775-8100